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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the  
**Medical Officer of Health**

**J. LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS**  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. D.P.H. (Lond.)

for the year

**1971**

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

ROCK GROUNDS,

ABERDARE, Glam.



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Public Health Department,  
Rock Grounds,  
Aberdare.

To: The Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Aberdare.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the privilege to submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the Public Health of the District for the year 1971, together with the following comments:

Once again this year, the increasing speed of air travel has produced new problems of health control and has highlighted the advisability for intending travellers to give earnest consideration to the need for effective vaccination before going abroad.

Early in September, the Benidorm and Valencia Provinces of Spain were declared cholera infected areas, and as a result it became necessary for all persons returning from Spain, not possessing a valid certificate of vaccination against cholera, to be placed under surveillance for five days.

All such travellers were required during their incoming flight to complete a form indicating their place of residence and their names and addresses were forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health of the district to which they intended returning.

Travellers returning to this area were visited daily by members of my staff over the period of surveillance and were advised to notify their General Practitioner and myself immediately of the appearance of any suspicious symptoms. All General Practitioners in the area were advised of the possibility of cholera in persons who gave a history of diarrhoea during or after a stay in any area known to be infected, and in addition were informed by telephone when certain of the patients were being kept under surveillance.

Many prospective travellers to Spain sought advice on the question of vaccination and few were aware that effective protection requires two doses of vaccine preferably a month apart, but certainly at an interval of not less than seven days, and that even then immunity is unlikely to reach a significant level until approximately three weeks have passed. Under these circumstances, it would be wise for all intending travellers to commence their vaccination procedures as early as possible in order that a high-body titre can be present before they actually go abroad.

Up to the middle of October when Spain was declared free from cholera, over 60 persons had been kept under surveillance and faecal swabs submitted for tests in respect of nine people who experienced some gastro intestinal upsets. Negative results for cholera were received for all these swabs, though in one case Salmonella Enteritidis was isolated.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the way my staff responded to the above emergency and to thank them for the meticulous care taken in the investigation and observation of each possible case, as it is emphasised that vaccination is of little or no use in preventing the spread of cholera. Control of this disease depends primarily on high standards of personal and environmental hygiene, and in view of the increasing possibility of the importation of cholera into Britain by travellers returning from infected areas abroad, additional precautionary measures have to be instituted to ensure that sanitary circumstances and controls in the district are completely satisfactory.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere thanks for the help I have received from Mr. D.G. James, the Clerk of the Council, and the Council's Chief Officers, the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. J.F. Jones, the Public Health Inspectors, to the Housing Assistant, Mr. D.N. Reynolds, the Welfare Assistant, Mr. J. Connelly, and to my Chief Clerk, Mrs. Beryl Hardwicke, and the Clerical Staff, for their loyal support and assistance to me during the year under review.

J. Llewellyn Williams,  
Medical Officer of Health.



# HEALTH COMMITTEE

Date of meetings: Third Tuesday in each month at 6.30 p.m.

## CHAIRMAN

Councillor Mrs. S. Morgan

Councillor (Mrs.) G. Jenkins

Councillor J. O'Connell

E.D. Jenkins

T.C. Phillips

(Mrs.) P.M. Jones

J.M. Powell

W.E. Parfitt

D.W. Rees

(Mrs.) L.G. Lynch

M.J. Vaughan

T. Jones

K.A. Rees

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Councillors W.S. Jones (Mrs.) P. Williams

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

## Medical Officer of Health

J. Llewellyn Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.(Lond.)

## Chief Public Health Inspector

J.F. Jones, C.R.S.H. M.A.P.H.I.

## Public Health Inspectors

E.P. Evans, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

M.J. Kedward, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

T.J. Jones, M.A.P.H.I.(from May 1971)

A.J. Pike, M.A.P.H.I.(to March 1971)

D.G. Powell, M.A.P.H.I.(to March 1971)

P.S. Lewis, M.A.P.H.I.(from August 1971)

## Pupil Public Health Inspectors

B. Kember

J. Smith

## Housing Assistant

D.N. Reynolds, D.M.A.

## Trainee Assistant

D. Adams

## Welfare Assistant

J. Connelly

## Clerical Staff

Chief Clerk: Mrs. B. Hardwicke

Second Clerk: Mrs. M. Cornelius

(to March 1971)

M. Burford (from April 1971)

Shorthand Miss B. Evans

Typists: Miss P. Fussell

## Rodent Control Operators

W. Bradford

E. Griffiths

## Van Driver/Disinfector

D.G. Mapp



VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE DISTRICT  
1961 - 1971

YEAR	POPULATION	BIRTHS		DEATHS	
		NUMBER	RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION (CRUDE)	NUMBER	RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION (ADJUSTED)
1961	38,970	597	15.7	569	15.04
1962	39,030	605	15.9	605	15.04
1963	39,000	605	15.7	661	17.6
1964	38,910	615	15.8	569	15.2
1965	38,900	663	17.04	597	15.5
1966	38,700	606	15.66	582	15.34
1967	38,450	608	15.8	560	14.8
1968	38,560	679	17.1	586	15.2
1969	38,210	650	17.0	661	17.5
1970	38,250	652	17.0	575	15.2
1971	37,780	625	16.5	541	14.4



## SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

## ABERDARE URBAN DISTRICT

ENGLAND  
AND WALES

## Live Births

Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	
316	267	25	17	625

783,165

Livebirths per 1,000 population  
(crude rate)

16.5

16.0

Local adjusted rate

18.0

Illegitimate livebirths 7% of all  
livebirths

8%

## Stillbirths:

Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	
3	3	1	-	7

9,898

Rate per 1,000 total live and  
stillbirths

11.0

12.0

Total births: Number live and still

632

793,063

## ABERDARE URBAN DISTRICT

ENGLAND  
AND WALES

## Total Deaths - All Ages

Males 293 Females 248 Total 541

567,345

Death rate per 1,000 population (crude) 14.3

11.6

Local adjusted rate 14.4

11.6

## Infant (Deaths under one year)

Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	
7	5	-	1	13

13,726

Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births 21

18

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000  
legitimate live births 21

17

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000  
illegitimate live births 24

24

## Neonatal (Death under four weeks)

Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	
4	3	-	1	8

9,113

Rate per 1,000 total live births 13

12

## Early Neonatal (Deaths under one week)

Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	
4	3	-	1	8

7,750

Rate per 1,000 total live births 13

10

## Perinatal (Stillbirths and deaths under one week)

Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	
7	6	1	1	15

17,648

Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths 24

22

Maternal Mortality - Number of Deaths NIL

# INFANT DEATHS

The Table below gives the vital statistics relating to infant deaths for 1971 and for the previous 10 years:-

YEAR	INFANT MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under one year per 1,000 Total Live Births)		NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)		PERI-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under one week per 1,000 Total Live and Stillbirths)	
	ENGLAND AND WALES	ABERDARE	ENGLAND AND WALES	ABERDARE	ENGLAND AND WALES	ABERDARE
1961	21.4	20.10	15.08		32.0	34.4
1962	21.4	36.36	23.14		30.8	38.7
1963	20.9	31.40	21.49		29.3	29.4
1964	20.0	27.64	16.26		28.2	30.4
1965	19.0	28.65	19.61		26.9	31.2
1966	19.0	24.75	18.15		26.3	41.8
1967	18.3	26.31	12.5	19.73	25.4	28.0
1968	18.0	27.9	22.1		25.0	28.0
1969	18.0	20.0	12.0	15.0	23.0	32.0
1970	18.0	23.0	12.0	18.0	23.0	29.0
1971	18.0	21.0	12.0	13.0	22.0	24.0



## VITAL STATISTICS

The table below gives comparative figures for rates relating to vital statistics during 1971.

	<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u> Rate per 1,000 Popula- tion. (Crude)	<u>DEATHS</u> Rate per 1,000 Popula- tion. (Crude)	<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u> Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY</u> Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births.	<u>STILL BIRTHS</u> Rate per 1,000 Total Births
ABERDARE	16.5	14.3	21	24	11
ENGLAND AND WALES	16.0	11.6	18	22	12
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY	16.5	12.3	19	25	15
MOUNTAIN ASH URBAN	16.5	13.2	39	30	13
CAERPHILLY URBAN	20.1	10.4	16	19	10
PONTYPRIDD URBAN	14.9	13.4	21	38	26
BRIDGEND URBAN	15.2	11.1	27	22	9
MAESTEG URBAN	20.0	14.1	17	26	12
BARRY M.B.	16.7	11.8	24	24	11
NEATH M.B.	12.9	13.8	22	53	37
RHONDDA M.B.	15.7	14.2	22	26	15



## CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	1	-	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Oesophagus	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	9	5	14
Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine	3	5	8
Malignant Neoplasm - Larynx	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	14	-	14
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	10	10
Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm - Prostate	4	-	4
Other Malignant Neoplasms	11	11	22
Diabetes Mellitus	1	3	4
Avitaminoses, etc.	-	1	1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	1	1
Anaemias	1	-	1
Multiple Sclerosis	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	1	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	3	6	9
Hypertensive Disease	10	10	20
Ischaemic Heart Disease	87	54	141
Other Forms of Heart Disease	23	28	51
Cerebrovascular Disease	33	43	76
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	10	9	19
Influenza	1	1	2

	Male	Female	Total
Pneumonia	8	16	24
Bronchitis and Emphysema	33	4	37
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	11	2	13
Peptic Ulcer	1	2	3
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	4	6
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
Other Diseases - Genito-Urinary System	2	2	4
Congenital Anomalies	3	1	4
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	2	3
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	2	4
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	2	1	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	6	10
All Other Accidents	6	5	11
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	3	4
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	293	248	541

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES  
(Other than Tuberculosis during 1971)

Disease	Total Cases	
Measles	17 Male	8 Female
Infective Hepatitis	10 "	6 "
Whooping Cough	3 "	3 "
Scarlet Fever	3 "	7 "
Dysentery	1 "	-
Food Poisoning	9 "	18 "

Cases of Infectious Diseases in Age Groups

	Under 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 65	Over 65 years
Measles	2	4	5	2	2	6	4	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	1	-	4	1	3	4	2	1
Whooping Cough	3	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	2	-	1	1	1	1	3	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	5	1	1	1	-	1	2	6	4	6	-

## INFECTIVE HEPATITIS

When the Public Health (Infective Jaundice) Regulations 1968 added infective jaundice to the list of notifiable diseases, it was pointed out that although the majority of cases of infective jaundice were due to infectious hepatitis, some might be due to parenteral injections administered with infected syringes. Similarly, jaundice might follow the transfusion of blood or blood products, although the association might be overlooked because of the long incubation period of serum hepatitis.

Identification of blood donors who might be symptomless carriers of the hepatitis associated antigen depends on the detection of post transfusion hepatitis in recipients of such blood or blood products. Throughout the year, along with the normal enquiries into the epidemiology of cases, each notified case of Infective Hepatitis has been investigated to ascertain whether the patient has received in patient hospital treatment during the preceeding six months.

This procedure has been instigated at the request of Dr. R.T. Bevan the Chief Medical Officer, Welsh Office, who, in the event of a positive reply required to be informed of the name and address of the patient and the General Practitioner concerned, together with the name of the hospital and the dates of admission and discharge.

In order to assist the above procedure, all General Practitioners in the area were reminded of the need for prompt notification of Infective Hepatitis, and during 1971 sixteen cases were investigated, but none required further action to be taken.



## FOOD POISONING

Food poisoning incidents are divided into three categories.

1. General Outbreaks: Two or more cases in different families due to a common cause.
2. Family Outbreaks: Two or more related cases in the same household.
3. Sporadic Cases: Single cases which are isolated occurrences.

Incidents are reported to the Welsh Office as they occur, and the Annual Return of Food Poisoning for this district for the year ended 31st December, 1971, contained the following information:-

GENERAL OUTBREAKS		FAMILY OUTBREAKS		SPORADIC CASES	TOTAL NO. OF CASES
No. of Separate Outbreaks	No. of Cases Notified and Ascertained	No. of Separate Outbreaks	No. of Cases Notified and Ascertained	No. of Cases Notified	Notified and ascertained
1	11	5	12	4	27

The General Outbreak was discovered after three cases of food poisoning were reported to my department by the organiser of a function, which took place at a local hotel at the end of November. Investigations disclosed that of the thirty-one people who partook of the meal, nine had been taken ill on the following day, all having similar symptoms of intestinal illness.

Faecal swabs were taken from the twenty-five participants of the meal, who lived in the Aberdare area, the remaining six cases being referred to the Medical Officers of Health for the areas in which they resided; in addition every member of the staff of the hotel concerned was interviewed and swabs submitted for examination.



Positive results for salmonella organisms were received for eleven persons, which number included two members of staff. These organisms were identified as Salmonella Enteritidis.

It was not possible to establish the source of the infection, with any degree of certainty, as, by the time the Public Health Department became aware of the incident (three days later), all items of food had been disposed of, and the infected staff members could well have been innocent victims.

The opportunity was taken to check up on the culinary drill at the hotel, and to reinforce the necessity for sound hygiene practice in the kitchen; and it was also considered desirable, due to the festive season, that similar reminders be given to all other establishments in the district likely to provide meals for large numbers of people.

All cases of suspected food poisoning are thoroughly investigated and this year in most instances early notification enabled the department to check on family contacts, contain the spread of infection and establish the causative organism. Delay in notification negates the above procedure, and this did happen in some cases.

In an outbreak which occurred in a Premature Baby Unit outside this district, but in which a baby from this area was involved, it was discovered that the organisms isolated from the baby (Salmonella Reading) were identified with those isolated from faecal swabs taken from two of the nursing staff who had recently returned from holiday - in one case in Spain and in the other in Italy.

This incident emphasises the dangers associated with the present high incidence of "holidays abroad" and the need for special precautions to be taken, at least in certain circumstances of risk.

The following table shows the incidence of Tuberculosis in the district over the past 20 years.

	NEW CASES NOTIFIED			DEATHS		
	RESPIRATORY	OTHER FORMS	TOTAL	RESPIRATORY	OTHER FORMS	TOTAL
1952	44	2	46	11	1	12
1953	104	8	112	13	1	14
1954	74	10	84	9	5	14
1955	49	12	61	8	1	9
1956	25	5	30	6	1	7
1957	31	4	35	3	-	3
1958	28	4	32	9	-	9
1959	21	1	22	5	-	5
1960	17	7	24	5	-	5
1961	28	5	33	2	1	3
1962	28	3	31	6	1	7
1963	26	1	27	8	-	8
1964	18	2	20	3	1	4
1965	13	2	15	2	1	3
1966	13	-	13	2	-	2
1967	11	2	13	2	-	2
1968	8	1	9	1	-	1
1969	9	-	9	3	-	3
1970	3	1	4	2	-	2
1971	4	1	5	1	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS  
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY 1971

	NEW CASES NOTIFIED			DEATHS		
	RESPIRA- TORY	NON-RES- PIRATORY	TOTAL	RESPIRA- TORY	NON-RES- PIRATORY	TOTAL
	M. F.	M. F.		M. F.	M. F.	
0 - 5 years	- -	- -	-	- -	- -	-
5 - 14	- -	- -	-	- -	- -	-
15 - 24	1 -	- -	1	- -	- -	-
25 - 44	- -	- 1	1	- -	- -	-
45 - 64	2 -	- -	2	- -	- -	-
65 and over	1 -	- -	1	1 -	- -	1
Age unknown	- -	- -	-	- -	- -	-
	4 -	- 1	5	1 -	- -	1

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF COUNCIL EMPLOYEES

During the year 125 persons were medically examined. The examinations were for the purpose of the Council's Superannuation Scheme, application for Breakdown Pensions, Public Service Vehicle and Heavy Goods Vehicle licensing.

## WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the water supply of the Urban Area is supplied by the Taf Fechan Water Board and is derived from seven sources, six of which lie within the Urban Area.

RESERVOIR	CAPACITY IN GALLONS	AREA SUPPLIED
NANTHIR (Situated on mountainside above Llwydcoed.)	40,000,000	Llwydcoed, Abernant, Maesyffynon, Godreaman (part), Cwmbach (part).
NANTMOEL (Situated on mountainside above Llwydcoed.)	67,000,000	Trecynon, Trefelin, Robertstown, Abercwmboi, Aberaman (part).
BWLLFA (Graig Storage Ponds) (Situated in the Bwllfa/Cwmdare village.)	7,000,000	Foundrytown, Daviestown, Town Centre, Plasdraw, Gadlys (part).
NANTAMANFACH (Situated in the hollow of Hafod Wen mountain Cwmaman.)	60,000	Aberaman (part), Godreaman (part), Glynhafod. Woodland Terrace to Glynhafod Street.
PWLLFA (Situated at Ffyrnant, Cwmaman, Catchment area reinforced by pumping from old Bedlwyn Level.)	160,000	
TAF FECHAN WATER BOARD		
Upper Neuadd	340,000,000	Hirwaun, Penywaun.
Lower Neuadd	74,000,000	Cwmdare, Trecynon
Taf Fechan	3,400,000,000	(part).



All houses and other premises within the urban area, with the exception of a few scattered cottages and farmhouses on the borders, are on the main supply. It is now the responsibility of the Taf Fechan Water Board to provide an adequate and wholesome supply of water.

All the water is treated by modern methods of chlorination and filtration and it is possible to maintain a reasonable supply, even in periods of drought.

At the Health Committee meeting held on 25th May, 1971, it was resolved that the established practice whereby the Public Health Inspectors took regular samples of domestic water supplies for analysis be discontinued, and that a system of random sampling be undertaken.

Bacteriological and chemical sampling, however, is carried out at all stages of its collection and treatment by the Water Board staff, the results being sent to this Department.

Consumer samples from domestic taps are taken periodically by the Public Health Inspectors as a result of consumer complaints.

A table showing the results of bacteriological and chemical tests is given below:

	Bacteriological Tests			Chemical Tests		
	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
NANTHIR	30	26	4	30	25	5
NANTMOEL	14	14	-	14	13	1
GRAIG	16	16	-	16	16	-
PWLLFA AND NANTAMANFACH	17	17	-	17	17	-
NEUADD	17	17	-	17	17	-
OTHER SAMPLES	-	-	-	-	-	-



## Swimming Baths and Paddling Pool

There are three swimming baths and one paddling pool situated in the district:

Swimming Baths and Paddling Pool situated at Aberdare Park;

Swimming Baths situated at Rock Grounds, Aberdare;

Swimming Baths situated at Michael's Field, Aberaman.

Frequency of Water Turnover:- 10 hourly.

Method of Treatment:- Sulphate of Alumina and Soda.

Baths	Source of Filling			Sterilisation		
ABERAMAN	Nantmoel Supply			Sodium Hypochlorinator		
ROCK	Bwllfa/Graig Supply			Chlorine Gas		
PARK	Bwllfa/Graig Supply			Sodium Hypochlorinator		
Source of Supply	Bacteriological Tests			Chemical Tests		
	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
ROCK BATHS						
Deep End	5	4	1	5	3	2
Shallow End	5	5	-	5	4	1
PARK BATHS						
Deep End	3	2	1	3	3	-
Shallow End	3	3	-	3	3	-
ABERAMAN BATHS						
Deep End	4	4	-	4	4	-
Shallow End	4	4	-	4	4	-
PARK PADDLING POOL						
Cascade	7	7	-	7	5	2
Centre	7	7	-	7	4	3

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

### RIVER POLLUTION

During the year, close co-operation was maintained with the River Authority, and on several occasions it was necessary for me to ask them to apply their authority when incidents of oil and ammonia pollution occurred in the River Cynon in the vicinity of the Phurnacite Plant.

The River Authority understands the importance of immediate investigation when river pollution occurs or otherwise the source is less likely to be found and they have never disapproved of members of my staff doing a preliminary survey and passing on the information gained on the spot. It is this sort of liaison that led to the detection of the source of the aforementioned incidents and enabled the authority to deal promptly and vigorously with the offenders.

There were other infrequent incidents of spasmodic pollution principally to the River Cynon when diesel and paraffin oil appeared after accidental spillage or, in one case, careless disposal. Each case was investigated and appropriate action taken and there were no complaints of fish mortality down stream of the incidents.

The River Dare has maintained its recovery after the cessation of coal recovery operations in the Bwllfa area and it is to the credit of the contractors involved in the development of the Country Park that very little pollution occurred during the considerable work involved in the construction of waterfalls and lakes, including the diversion of the actual river. The development has, however, made clearer the extent of iron pollution in the Nantmelyn tributary of the Dare. This is a problem upon which expert advice is being sought.

The River Aman has suffered from tip levelling operations and again several incidents of sewage pollution have occurred. It seems, however, to have the potential for rapid recovery and aquatic plants seem to thrive; the river generally is clear and of good appearance.

The Nant-y-Geugarn is also clean having recovered from its period of gross pollution by coal washing operations.

A scheme now being considered by the Engineer and Surveyor for clearing the river banks of debris and household refuse will do much to enhance their appearance. The department will continue its vigilance of the rivers.

#### TRADE EFFLUENT

The Creamery at Trecynon produces a trade effluent described as "a rather turbid, alkaline, putrefactive effluent containing unoxidised organic matter equivalent in strength to a very weak crude sewage" and as such is of satisfactory composition for discharge into a sewerage system.

It is upon this basis that the effluent is discharged directly into the sewer the main proviso, because of sewer restrictions, being that of the 85,000 gallons discharged in 24 hours, 60,000 gallons is discharged by day and 25,000 gallons is discharged by night via a balance tank.

A Trade Effluent Agreement exists between the Council and the Company.

At Aberdare Cables Ltd. the trade effluent is of a more toxic character and contains copper and sulphates. It is necessary, therefore, that efficient pre-treatment, within the works, takes place before discharge into the Council's sewer and a prescribed standard of chemical composition must be maintained before acceptance.

To meet these prescribed standards the Company are constructing a new pre-treatment Plant, the old one having become defunct, and it is hoped this will be operational early next year.

A Trade Effluent Agreement exists.



For many years Messrs. Helliwells of Robertstown have operated a large and complex Neutralising Plant which daily treats thousands of gallons of trade effluent from the Acid Pickling Process before discharge into the Council's sewer.

In June of this year the Company advised that it was their intention to discontinue this process and use steel strip for tube-making which would not require this process. The acceptance of this effluent into the sewer should, therefore, shortly discontinue.

A Trade Effluent Agreement exists at present.

Whilst the foregoing have been past problems, the Phurnacite Plant with its complex trade effluent containing Phenols and Ammonia, is the current one.

At present this effluent is pumped up to lagoons from where it percolates slowly into the ground and, probably in a dilute form, some of it finds its way into the river where further dilution renders it relatively innocuous. It is, however, not an acceptable means of disposal and the Board have applied to discharge this effluent into the Council's sewer.

Acceptance of this proposal would not have been possible before the completion of the Sewerage Disposal Works at Abercynon and even then, the effluent would require a major chemical change by a complex pre-treatment process at the works before it would conform to the standards acceptable to the Council.

The Board after lengthy experiments with the effluent have now designed a biological pre-treatment Plant which they claim will meet the standards specified and the work of construction has commenced.

Completion is not expected until the middle of 1972 and thereafter, prior to acceptance, the most stringent analytical tests over a prolonged period will be made in order to ensure the satisfactory composition of the effluent. Then subject to the completion of the works at Abercynon, the effluent could be accepted.

A Trade Effluent Agreement will, of course, ensue. The disposal of sludge from the process is still engaging my thoughts.

## THE NEW ABERDARE BRICKWORKS, LLWYDCOED.

These works are a scheduled process under the Alkali etc., Works Regulations Act 1906 and the Alkali etc., Works Order 1966 and, therefore, come under the direct control of the Alkali Inspectorate.

Nevertheless, it was to this department that the residents of Llwydcoed complained when in September of last year their homes and gardens became showered in 'oily smuts' being discharged into the atmosphere from the tall chimney stack serving the works.

Investigations were immediately put in hand and the Alkali Inspector was informed of the recurring incidents of pollution. It was discovered that, without notice, the firm had changed from the previously clean coal fired means of heating the kilns to, what proved to be, an inadequate oil fired system.

The Management claimed that 'teething troubles' were to blame for the pollution, and that shortly the system would be brought under control. Belief in this theory became rather thin as the months went by and the Alkali Inspector was induced to use his authority to make the firm install a more efficient and reliable means of firing.

The outcome was that in September of this year the oil fired system was removed and was replaced with the L.P.G. (Liquid Propane Gas) system which has since proved highly efficient and operates completely free of visible pollution. In saying this one means that whilst no visible pollution is present a small percentage of sulphur inherent in all fossil fuels, would be liberated but in harmless amounts.

I think it can be stated that this nuisance was abated in a reasonably short period by good liaison between my department and the Alkali Inspector.



## PHURNACITE PLANT

Public Health Authorities and certainly no less our own, were carried into 1971 on a flowing tide of conservationism. The previous year had been Conservation Year and considerable publicity through the media of the press, radio and television had awakened the public interest resulting in strong expressions of concern and a nationwide demand for drastic reductions in the level of pollution.

Indeed such is the universal concern that an international network for the monitoring and study of air pollution has been set up by the World Health Organisation. This is the first practical measure to deal with air pollution on a world-wide scale. The network consists of two international centres, London and Washington, three regional centres, Moscow, Nagpur and Tokyo, and 20 laboratories in various parts of the world.

The main purpose is to supply the World Health Organisation with information on levels of air pollution due to sulphur dioxide and to dust particles suspended in the air. The reporting of monthly averages will make it possible to observe and compare trends in various countries and to issue warnings where necessary. These two categories of pollutants have been chosen for close study since they are considered to be the best indicators of the general level of air pollution, although other substances such as carbon dioxide and oxides of nitrogen will also be measured.

Sulphur dioxide and dust particles present hazards to health only when they are present in the air in certain concentrations. In the case of sulphur dioxide the respiratory tract becomes irritated when a certain threshold has been reached. The hazard created by dust particles depends on the chemical nature and size of the substance in suspension: for example, lead is toxic, while quartz particles may cause silicosis. When the danger level is reached, sulphur dioxide in the presence of smoke may endanger those with bronchitis and heart disease. However, many other pollutants under similar conditions may present risks.

Residents of the Cynon Valley, in which there exists a unique source of pollution have always been, and justifiably so, vociferous in their demands for cleaner air and this Authority, through its Public Health Department, has worked unceasingly in an endeavour to obtain an acceptable level of visual pollution (it being impossible to eliminate it altogether) and to reduce the pollution to an absolute minimum.

The unique source referred to is, of course, the Phurnacite Plant at Abercwmboi at which, over the past twenty years, hundreds of thousands of pounds have been spent by the National Coal Board on pollution preventive measures, each of which, it is true to say, has only been adopted after the most vigorous representations, at the highest level, by this authority.

The forms of prevention include electro-static precipitators and other sophisticated dust suppression equipment. Gas scrubbers have been in use for a long time and more recently reasonably successful experiments have been carried out with the John Zink After burners. The measures adopted and the new experiments in hand are very impressive but the extent of localised pollution from the Plant is still too high and it is my resolve to continue exerting pressure on the Board for general improvements and for increased scientific experiments in pollution control.

It is important too that the present equipment is properly maintained and renewed when it cannot properly perform its function. To this end a constant surveillance of the Plant is maintained and frequent meetings are held between the Council's officials and the Board and regularly, at more general meetings, the interest of the public is additionally represented by the Abercwmboi Clean Air Committee.

When examining the behaviour of the Plant over the year it can be reported that from January, Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 batteries worked at full capacity until November when, internal labour disputes caused a reduction in working hours, and production was reduced to 50%. A corresponding reduction in visible and measurable pollution might have been expected, but this was not so. The air around the Plant appeared only marginally less polluted and the volumetric instruments stationed at strategic points to the south east and north of the Plant confirmed only a marginal decrease in dust and sulphur dioxide.

No. 2 battery is in the process of a rebuild and is not expected to become operational until some time late next year and, because of constructional difficulties, perhaps not until early in 1973. It is then anticipated that the replacement programme, subject to L.A. approval, will continue with the rebuilding of No. 3 battery and subsequently Nos. 4 and 5, all of which were originally built in 1956/57 with an extension to their operational life of longer than the accepted fifteen years. Such prolongment is certainly not helpful and whilst a new replacement Disticoke battery cannot be deemed clean from pollution emission it has certain refinements which make them an improvement on the old type.



During the year a new idea called the "Spruce Experiment" was introduced by the Board to the Council with a view to an application for Planning Permission to construct. This engineering development is designed to prevent the formation of steam in the quenching process and thereby prevent dust and grit being carried into the atmosphere entrained in steam as it is at present. It appears a commendable scheme and one which should do much to prevent the heavy localised fallout. Its development will be watched with interest.

The Balfour Pilot Plant, after a series of mechanical failures during the previous year, was set for yet another trial run early in January and its performance was satisfactory until almost the end of the month when the operators noticed a reduction in the velocity of the cooling gases and investigations showed that a steel induction fan had become badly eroded by the presence of sulphuric acid and in the absence of a replacement fan the Plant had to be shut down again. Investigations into the cause of the failure revealed that a considerable engineering modification was necessary.

The Board gave assurances of continued efforts to overcome the difficulties associated with the operation of this Plant and whilst they were not optimistic about eventual success they would continue the experiment in the hope that the process could be made to work efficiently.

At the end of the year, however, hope, I think, turned to despair because the modifications did not solve the problems and the Plant was not operational.

Summing up on the performance of the Plant during the year it can be said that there were too many occasions when pollution was particularly bad, but that generally over the whole year there was a marginal improvement probably due to the experiments in dust suppression and the slightly cleaner operation of the No. 6 and 7 new batteries.

In trying to forecast improvements one could expect some marginal ones on dust suppression where experiments are in train on the Pugs and Briquetting Plant together with the previously mentioned "Spruce Experiment". Evidence shows that grit and dust is the worst and major pollutants while measurements of sulphur dioxide, although variable, is generally not excessive.

Finally, I must voice, in this context, my usual note of pessimism and reiterate my long held belief that the "Disticoke" method of producing smokeless fuel can never be made a clean manufacturing process.

## MEDICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

The concluding paragraph of last year's Report on atmospheric pollution read as follows:- "As a result of the discussion at the Welsh Office and the request that the Alkali Inspectorate conduct a detailed survey to determine whether there were medical hazards associated with pollution in general, and, in particular with that emanating from the Phurnacite Plant, the last weeks of the year saw the initial steps being taken in preparation for the organisation of such a research project".

At a meeting attended by representatives of the National Coal Board, Aberdare and Mountain Ash Urban District Councils, and the Abercwmboi Clean Air Committee, Professor P.J. Lawther, M.B., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., Director Medical Research Council Pollution Unit, explained how, following the meeting at the Welsh Office in 1970 (attended by representatives of that Department, the Board, the local authorities and the Alkali Inspectorate), he had been approached by the latter as to the possibility of undertaking a medical research project to establish whether there was any substance in the widely held local view that there was more bronchitis (especially amongst children), in the locality, and that this was attributable to the Phurnacite Plant. He had, in 1964, had some previous contact with this matter but, more recently, he had reconsidered the issue, and discussed it with some of those principally involved. As a result he thought that the subject offered distinct possibilities for which general "community involvement" was, in his view, an essential prerequisite.

The sort of project that Professor Lawther had in mind (directed substantially towards the young and old) was discussed, leading to general agreement that:

- (a) a survey should be undertaken in an attempt to establish any possible connection between the level of atmospheric pollution in the valley, and the incidence of respiratory diseases among the local population, especially children;
- (b) Professor Lawther's proffered assistance in the development and conduct of the investigation be accepted;
- (c) I, (who would by my combined appointments be uniquely placed to maintain contact with all the interests principally involved) should provide the local project co-ordination; and
- (d) the proposed survey be clearly seen to be a quite distinct issue from the efforts, that would continue unabated by all concerned, to reduce the level of known pollution from the Phurnacite Plant.



As a result of this meeting and much preparatory work a programme of research was commenced on 1st October, 1971, and continues.

The project involves:

- 1). daily recording of weather conditions;
- 2). daily measurement of sulphur dioxide and smoke at three sites - Gadlys Secondary Modern School, Mountain Ash Comprehensive School and Mountain Ash Town Hall;
- 3). daily respiratory function tests on two separate but similar groups of children at the Gadlys Secondary Modern School, Aberdare, and the Comprehensive School, Mountain Ash; and
- 4). a diary survey of patients with established respiratory disease and nominated by local General Practitioners.

All data will be processed for computerisation and transmitted to the Air Pollution Unit, Medical Research Council, for assessment and analysis.

#### COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL INFORMATION

The table overleaf shows the results of analyses of samples of deposited matter collected from the atmospheric stations set up at various points in the Aberdare and Mountain Ash Urban Districts. These results are now given in metric form and are submitted to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the National Coal Board as well as being reported periodically to the two Councils concerned. The figures denote estimated solids in milligrammes per square metre and if divided by 13 can be compared with the figures of previous years' tables which expressed estimated solids in tons per square mile.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL INFORMATION  
MEASUREMENT OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

COLLECTING POINT	JAN.	FEB.	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
ABERDARE CO-OPERATIVE, (CENTRAL).	73	78	107	71	78	23	97	47	130	25	113	56
AMAN SCHOOL, CWMAMAN.	69	49	46	56	196	23	61	32	85	48	30	63
ABERCWMBOI SCHOOL.	92	117	253	266	56	177	205	115	247	173	140	127
SERVINI'S FACTORY, CWMBACH.	168	150	204	149	240	36	278	212	247	155	146	93
HIBERNIAN CLUB, MOUNTAIN ASH.	116	263	186	160	292	210	186	106	193	115	211	-
WORKMEN'S HALL, YNYSYBWL.	120	77	97	83	152	-	54	32	138	62	59	33
ABERCYNON (PARK).	58	66	60	26	65	52	66	29	49	132	46	27
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL.	337	57	1083	308	457	438	152	102	80	970	259	41

## DERELICT LANDS

This province, because of the civil work generally involved, is largely that of the Engineer and Surveyor but inevitably and almost always some aspect of public health is involved. Certainly, since environment is the sum of external influences affecting an individual's development and health, any environmental project must be of benefit and must be regarded as an integral part of preventive medicine.

1971 saw the commencement of two important environmental projects in the urban area. One was the development of the Country Park in the Dare Valley and the other the Taff Valley conservation scheme. A third project entitled 'Aman Valley', which entails tip recovery and reinstatement of land continued satisfactorily.

On the 14th June, 1971, works of reclamation commenced on the three hundred acres of tip covered and despoiled land in the Dare Valley. This thoughtfully conceived and well planned project was so advanced by the end of the year that all the offending tips had been levelled and the topographical features of the new park were well defined. Progress is such that by the middle of 1972 the major works will have been completed.

Engaging my attention currently is the iron staining of the Nantmelyn Stream. The source of the problem lies at the old Wimber level where water flowing from some of the upper coal seams emerges and precipitates an insoluble iron hydroxide as it enters the Nantmelyn.

Whilst the presence of iron is not wholly detrimental to fish life the pollution does form an unpleasant visual aspect in the Country Park.

Some derelict building and littered land form a scar on the landscape of the north west perimeter and will have to be cleared. The final scheme will include a realigned stream, waterfalls and lakes for boating and fishing. The area then, as it matures, should be one of considerable rural charm, and will provide an attractive and pleasant amenity.



The Taff Valley Environmental Project was established in the context of European Conservation Year 1970 and involves the Glamorgan County Council and all local authorities whose boundaries are within or abutt the Taff Valley. The organisation is composed of technical officers from these local authorities who are concerned with the environment of the River Taff and its main tributary valleys, the Cymon and Rhondda; other participants are the University College of Wales.

The first physical efforts in this valley were undertaken by the Engineer and Surveyor in July of this year when the rivers and tributaries, including the banks were generally "cleared up". The campaign was extended to include the removal of domestic rubbish and abandoned cars, which had been indiscriminately dumped. It is intended later to extend the scheme to cover the whole valley.

The project is highly commendable and one in which the general public and private landowners should be encouraged to take an active part. It is hoped that the momentum with which the project started and the initial enthusiasm displayed will not diminish, but rather that a sustained effort will continue and grow. It is hoped too that the exchequer grants now provided for this specific purpose will continue and if possible be increased because the project is too valuable to be allowed to terminate.

Finally, one must refer to the Aman Valley Project which involves coal extraction and tip levelling operations at the old Fforchwen Colliery and Blaenamanfawr tips at Cwmaman. In conjunction with the Engineer and Surveyor the progress is being carefully watched so that from the complex operations of coal extraction the land will be left well drained and the discarded material graded in a manner which will permit proper landscaping.

The residents of the particular part of the valley affected have been very tolerant of the unavoidable nuisance associated with tip removal, but progress is such that in the not too distant future the industrial scars of a century will have gone and the valley will revert to something approximating its former setting.



## SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Work has progressed satisfactorily on the new Cynon Valley Sewage Disposal Works at Cwm Farm, Abercynon, and it is hoped this will be operational in December 1972.

The project includes vital link sewers to ensure that the whole of Aberdare, Mountain Ash, Penderyn parish of Vaynor and Penderyn Rural District Council and part of Hirwaun in Neath Rural District Council, drain to one major works.

It is envisaged that consideration will be given to other areas including Hirwaun and possibly the Hirwaun Industrial Estate if this area is included with this authority in the proposed local government amalgamation.

Cost of the Cynon Valley new Sewage Disposal Works .. ..	£1,200,000
Cost of further remedial works .. .. .	£1,510,000

## RODENT CONTROL

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

During the year, work on the destruction of rats and mice was continued and two operators were employed full time by the Council.

Below will be found details of treatments carried out during the year:-

		TYPE OF PROPERTY	
		NON- AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
1.	No. of properties in District	15,689	43
2.	a) No. of properties inspected following notifications	395	19
	b) No. infested by (i) Rats	330	6
	(ii) Mice	65	13
3.	a) Total no. of properties inspected for rates and/or mice for reasons other than notification	38	-
	b) No. infested by (i) Rats	14	-
	(ii) Mice	24	-

## SEWER TREATMENTS

Two treatments of the sewers in the area were carried out during 1971 and consisted of baiting the manholes twice at weekly intervals using a bait made as detailed on the following page.

85%	Pinhead oatmeal	5%	Mineral oil
5%	Sugar	5%	Warfarin
0.5%	Para-nitro-phenol		

First Treatment Completed in May 1971.

No. of man-holes	No. Baited	FIRST BAIT			SECOND BAIT			No. of manholes not baited
		No. of good and complete takes	No. of small takes	No. of no takes	No. of good and complete takes	No. of small takes	No. of no takes	
658	658	46	1	611	4	14	640	-
Second Treatment Completed in December 1971								
612	603	45	1	557	6	10	597	9

Although not shown in the brief particulars given above, all manholes which show positive after the second treatment (i.e. still showing that bait is being taken) are re-visited until a "no take" is finally recorded.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

All refuse collected is disposed of at the Council's refuse tip, and controlled tipping, in accordance with the recommendation of the Ministry of Health, is being operated under the supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor.

Tipping is carried out under strict supervision and control. No toxic or other chemical wastes are deposited on the Council tip.

Regular visits are made by the Public Health Inspectors and Rodent Operators, and I am pleased to report that rodent infestation is no longer a serious problem.

## NOISE

During the year, the Public Health Inspectors continued their work in noise control. The Department has now acquired a sophisticated noise and vibration meter which is proving a great advantage when dealing with noise problems as they arise.

I am pleased to report that the five noise complaints received were investigated and dealt with informally without the necessity of resorting to statutory action.

	INDUSTRIAL	COMMERCIAL	DOMESTIC
No. of Complaints received	3	2	-
No. of Complaints investigated	3	2	-
No. of Nuisances confirmed	2	2	-
No. of Nuisances remedied informally	2	2	-

## Noise Abatement Act 1960

No. of abatement Notices under Section 1	NIL
No. of nuisance orders under Section 1	NIL
No. of complaints under Section 2	NIL



## POULTRY INSPECTION

There is one poultry processing plant within the area, in which pre-inspected poultry is roasted. Local inspection of the poultry is unnecessary in this case, but periodic inspections are made with regard to the provisions of the relevant hygiene regulations.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955 - SECTION 16

Number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream	3
Number registered during 1971	-
Number of premises and vehicles registered for sale of ice-cream	204
Number registered during 1971	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><b>210</b></u>

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

The Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the District and during the year under review 345 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for his analysis. This number approximated to one sample per 111 numbers of the population.

In the course of the year, the samples (formal, informal and private purchasers complaints) detailed overleaf were submitted and reported upon by the Public Analyst.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Sample	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Butter	7	-
Baking Powder	1	-
Bread	1	3
Coffee	8	-
Cream	11	-
Confectionery	2	2
Colouring matter	3	-
Curry Powder	1	-
Cereals	1	-
Cheese	13	1
Custard Powder	3	-
Cornflour	3	-
Drugs and Medicinal Preps.	23	-
Fish Paste	8	-
Fish (Fresh)	7	-
Fish (Canned)	1	-
Fruit (Fresh)	4	-
Fruit (Dried)	1	-
Fruit (Canned)	12	-
Honey	7	-
Lard	1	-
Milk	30	2
Milk Products	20	1
Meat Products	21	-
Meat (Fresh)	6	2
Meat (Canned)	6	-
Mint	2	-
Margarine	5	-
Soft Drinks	24	2
Salad Dressing	6	-
Seasoning	11	-
Sauces	18	-
Sugar	2	-
Sausages	11	2
Vegetables (Fresh)	4	-
Vegetables (Frozen)	1	-
Vegetables (Canned)	9	-
Vegetables (Dried)	7	-
Vinegar	5	-
Olive Oil	1	-
Preserves	15	-
Potato Crisps	-	1
Pies and Pasties	1	4
Soups	1	-
Gravy Browning	1	-
TOTALS	325	20

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Below and continued overleaf are details of the foods which were found to be unsatisfactory, together with the action taken:-

No.	Type	Food	Remarks
35a	Complaint	Chicken - decomposed.	Public Analyst did not substantiate complaint.
36A	Complaint	Liver - decomposed.	Public Analyst did not substantiate complaint.
37A	Complaint	Pastie - mould.	Proceedings instituted. Fined £5.00 with £5.75 costs.
40A	Complaint	Potato Crisps - rancid.	Warning letter sent to manufacturer.
69A	Complaint	Cheese - mould.	Warning letter sent to retailer.
76A	Informal	Cordial contained a non-permitted colouring matter.	Warning letter sent to manufacturer.
94A	Complaint	Pie - mould.	Proceedings instituted Fined £10.00 with £4.20 costs.
116A	Complaint	Beef Curry - decomposed	Public Analyst did not substantiate complaint.
152A	Complaint	Bread - Mouldy	Proceedings instituted. Case dismissed by magistrates.
161A	Informal	Sausage - deficient in meat content.	Warning letter sent to manufacturer.
183A	Complaint	Cake - Foreign body.	Warning letter sent to manufacturer.
184A	Complaint	Milk - Foreign body.	Proceedings instituted. Fined £20.00 with £2.00 costs.

No.	Type	Food	Remarks
A185	Formal	Sausages - deficient in meat content.	Warning letter sent to manufacturer.
186A	Complaint	Bread - insects. )	Insufficient evidence to institute proceedings. Warning letter sent to manufacturer.
187A	Complaint	Bread - insects. )	
233A	Complaint	Cream dessert - mould.	Proceedings instituted. £20.00 fine with £4.50 costs.
234A	Complaint	Pork brawn - foreign body.	Complaint not substantiated by Public Analyst.
235A	Complaint	Sliced beef - maggots.	Proceedings instituted. £10.00 fine with £4.50 costs.
260A	Complaint	Teacake - foreign body.	Insufficient evidence. No action taken.
261A	Complaint	Cream puff - mouldy.	Proceedings instituted. £10.00 fine with £4.50 costs.
281A	Complaint	Steak and kidney pie - mould.	Proceedings instituted. £25.00 fine with £69.00 costs.
282A	Complaint	Milk - foreign body.	Proceedings instituted. £25.00 fine with £2.00 costs.
283A	Complaint	Soft drink - foreign body.	Proceedings instituted. £10.00 fine.
284A	Complaint	Bread - mould.	Proceedings instituted. £20.00 fine. £4.50 costs.
302A	Complaint	Cheese - rancid.	Warning letter sent to manufacturer.
303A	Complaint	Pork - decomposed.	Complaint not substantiated by Public Analyst.
304A	Complaint	Beef - decomposed.	Complaint not substantiated by Public Analyst.
345A	Complaint	Pork rolls - decomposed.	Analysis did not substantiate the complaint.



## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS 1963

Number of Sterilising Plants Licensed	1
Number of Pasteurising Plants Licensed	1
Number of dealers authorised to use special designation "Pasteurised"	18
Number of dealers authorised to use special designation "Sterilised"	17
Number of dealers authorised to use the special designation "Untreated"	12
Number of dealers authorised to use the special designation "U.H.T."	17

## REPORT ON BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

The following is a summary of bacteriological examinations carried out during the year, all samples being submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

Milk	No. of Samples	Unsatisfactory
PASTEURISED	33	1
STERILISED	2	-
HOMOGENISED	8	-
CHANNEL ISLAND	5	1

## EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR TUBERCLE BACILLI

A total of two samples of untreated milk were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff, for examination for tubercle bacilli, and both were found to be satisfactory.

## ANTIBIOTICS IN MILK

Antibiotics are much used for the treatment of mastitis in cows, and the samples of milk submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination were found to be satisfactory.

## EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR BRUCELLA ABORTUS

Samples of untreated milk were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination for brucella abortus, and all were found to be satisfactory.

## THE MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1959

At 31st December, 1971, eighteen distributors and eleven dairies (not being dairy farms) were listed in the Authority's register. Under regulation 8 of the above Regulations, a distributor is required to be licensed only with the Local Authority in whose area the premises from which milk is distributed are situated.

## UN SOUND FOOD

Consignments of food which have been voluntarily surrendered or condemned by the Public Health Inspectors as being unfit for human consumption, are despatched to the Council's refuse tip and buried under supervision. The tip is regularly inspected to ensure minimum insect and rodent infestation.

During the year miscellaneous articles of food weighing 5 tons, 11 cwts., 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs., were disposed of in this way.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS

I must again express my gratitude to Dr. L.E. Coles, Public Analyst, and to Dr. R.W.S. Harvey of the Public Health Laboratory for the advice and assistance I have had from them in connection with the wide variety of chemical and bacteriological analyses and investigations which they have carried out on behalf of the Authority.

## LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS 1963

Number of Egg Pasteurising Plants within district	NIL
Number of liquid egg samples submitted to Alpha-amylese test	NIL

## ICE CREAM

At 31st December, 1971, there were 210 registered ice-cream dealers within the Urban District, three of which manufacture their own ice-cream. The majority of retailers purchase ready-made ice-cream, in hygienic containers, and maintain it at the required temperature in refrigerators provided by the wholesaler.

All the shop premises and vehicles used for the sale of ice-cream were repeatedly inspected and kept under observation; and also samples of ice-cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination.

## THE FOOD HYGIENE (MARKETS, STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES) REGULATIONS 1966

During the year a total of 20 inspections were carried out on Mobile Food vendors and food delivery vehicles. Whilst the general standard of hygiene was satisfactory, minor contraventions of the Regulations were noted, but I am pleased to report that the few defects that did exist were remedied without the necessity of resorting to statutory action.

## THE FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960-63

The Public Health Inspectors continue their work of education in food hygiene, together with the inspection and supervision of all premises involved in the handling, preparation and storage of food.

During the year, 300 inspections were carried out at food premises and it was found necessary to serve one statutory notice under the above Regulations in order to bring the premises up to standard.



## ABERDARE MARKET

During 1971, general improvement works were carried out at the Market in that new toilet facilities were provided together with general necessary repair works.

The greatest problem prior to this year was the nuisance arising from the incorrect storage of offensive matter, but now, with the assistance of the individual stall-holders, this problem has been minimised.

## SUMMARY OF FOOD PREMISES WITHIN AREA

Type of Shop	No.	No. fitted to comply with Regulation 16 (W.H. Basins)	No. to which Regulation 19 applies (sinks)	No. of premises fitted with basins and sinks
GENERAL DEALER	59	58	58	58
GROCERS	43	42	40	40
GREENGROCERS	8	3	3	3
CONFECTIONERS	33	33	33	33
RESTAURANTS	9	9	9	9
BUTCHERS	27	27	26	26
FISH AND CHIPS	21	15	21	15
FISHMONGERS	2	2	2	2
SUPERMARKETS	4	4	4	4
OTHERS	2	2	2	2
TOTALS	208	195	198	192

## LICENSED PREMISES - HYGIENE

During 1971, a survey of all licensed premises within the urban area was carried out by the Public Health Inspectors.

A number of the Public Houses within the urban area are now catering in a very large way. Cooked meals are provided at almost any time on request, and whilst the standards of hygiene are satisfactory, the general lack of facilities in the domestic kitchens in which these meals are prepared and cooked, is noticeable.

Specialist catering for functions e.g. weddings, etc., is also now very popular. In this case, the meals are generally prepared and cooked by caterers in their premises, and transferred to the Public House that day in insulated containers.

Almost every Public House in the area caters, as far as providing sandwiches, snacks, pies, etc., and whilst generally, the preparation of these is carried out hygienically, insufficient care is taken during the display and sale stage. Education in this matter is being carried out whenever necessary.

With the recent amalgamation of breweries, the control of licensed premises is made easier, and again I would like to stress the close liaison that exists between the police and the Public Health Department with regard to inspections.

## CINEMAS

All cinemas within the area are provided with adequate toilet arrangements. However, periodic vandalism still occurs which creates severe problems for management and staff.

During the year, the Palladium Cinema was converted completely to a Bingo Hall, no films now being shown, and the Rex Cinema provides Bingo entertainment on one night per week.

During the year the Health Committee approved Certificates of Fitness with regard to first-aid, fire-fighting, etc., and electrical installations. This service is administered by the Clerk of the Council.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are now two registered common lodging houses within the urban area. A number of visits to both were carried out during the year by the Public Health Inspectors, who reported that conditions were generally satisfactory and that the relevant Sections of the Public Health Act 1936 and the byelaws made under the Act were being complied with.

## GENERAL HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES OF THE DISTRICT

1. Services provided by the Glamorgan County Council
  - (a) Maternity and Child Welfare, Midwifery, Home Nursing, Chiropody, Distribution of Welfare Foods, Issuing of Sick Room Requisites, School Medical and Health Visiting, Cervical Cytology, Family Planning.

These services are administered by the Divisional Medical Officer:  
Headquarters: Divisional Health Office, The Clinic, Rock Grounds, Aberdare. Tel. No. Aberdare 2497/8.
  - (b) The Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 provided for the setting up of a Social Services Department to provide an integrated service embracing the responsibilities of the former Welfare, Child Care, Mental Health and Home Help Sections. The Social Services Department is situated at:  
The County Offices, Llewellyn Street, Trecynon, Aberdare. Tel. Nos. Aberdare 3018 and 4350.  
The Social Services Department administers for the following services in this area:
    - (i) Residential Care for the Aged, Mentally and Physically Handicapped, and children who cannot be cared for at home.
    - (ii) Community care by Teams of Social Workers who will discern the needs of children and young persons, their families, the Mentally Ill and Mentally Handicapped, the Blind, Deaf, the Physically Handicapped and the Elderly.
    - (iii) Special Services, such as the Home Help Service, Fostering Service, Adoption Services, Care of unmarried Mothers, Day Nurseries and Child Minders.
    - (iv) The protection of property of persons in Homes or Hospitals, the handling of the affairs of persons incapable of managing matters for themselves.
    - (v) Emergency Services in the form of Temporary Accommodation of Homeless Families and special schemes to deal with the effects of fire and flood and other eventualities.



(c) Ambulance Service

The Ambulance Station for this area is situated at Hawthorn, Rhydyfelin, Pontypridd, Glam. Tel. No. Pontypridd 3973.

(d) Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages

This area comes under the Pontypridd District and the Superintendent's Office is at Courthouse Street, Pontypridd. Tel. No. Pontypridd 3122.

The local Registrar's Office is at 21 Cardiff Street, Aberdare. Tel. No. Aberdare 2008.

2. Probation Officers

The address of the Principal Probation Officer is:- St. Catherine's Chamber, Mill Street, Pontypridd. Tel. No. Pontypridd 2157.

The Youth Employment Officer for this area is:- Mr. W.V. McCarthy, Youth Employment Bureau, Wind Street, Aberdare. Tel. No. Aberdare 2795.

3. Hospital Services provided by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board

Hospital facilities for this area are administered by the Merthyr and Aberdare Hospital Management Committee. The office of the Committee is at St. Tydfil's Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil. Tel. No. Merthyr 3401.

The following is a list of the hospitals and clinics used by the residents of the area:-

Aberdare General Hospital, Abermant. Tel. No. Aberdare 2411  
 Fedw Hir Convalescent Hospital, Llwydcoed, Aberdare.  
 Tel. No. Aberdare 2612  
 Mountain Ash General Hospital, Caegarw, Mountain Ash.  
 Tel. No. Mountain Ash 2212

Continued...

Mardy Isolation Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil. (For infectious diseases)

Tel. No. Merthyr Tydfil 3581

St. Tydfil's Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil. Tel. No. Merthyr 3401

Merthyr General Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil. Tel. No. Merthyr 3651

Chest Clinic at Aberdare General Hospital, Abernant, Aberdare.

Tel. No. 2411

(This clinic is available on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons.)

#### 4. Services provided by Government Departments

- (a) Ministry of Central Social Security (Wales), Central Office (Wales), Government Buildings, St. Agnes Road, Gabalfa, Cardiff.  
Tel. No. Cardiff 62131

- (b) Pneumoconiosis Medical Panel

The office is situated at:

East Entrance, Prudential Building, Cathays Park, Cardiff.

Tel. No. Cardiff 26161

- (c) Department of Health and Social Security

The local office for supplementary benefits for this district is at:

Glanynys, Cwmbach Road, Aberdare. Tel. No. Aberdare 2343

The local office for Pensions and National Insurance is at:

4 Victoria Square, Aberdare. Tel. No. Aberdare 2541

- (d) Ministry of Labour and National Service

Employment Exchange, Monk Street, Aberdare.

Tel. No. Aberdare 2383

## 5. General Practitioner Service

This service is provided by the Glamorgan Executive Council, (National Health Council), Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff. Tel. No. Cardiff 26216

### MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE

Throughout 1971 the Service continued to provide three meals per week to all recipients. In emergencies it was possible to provide five meals per week, and this was done in four cases.

All meals were prepared at St. Mary's Social Centre, the menu and selling price being the same for the Meals on Wheels Service and for customers at the Centre. In a few instances it was necessary to provide alternative meals to cater for special needs and diabetic diets. Constant efforts are being made to increase the basic menu range to provide a more varied and attractive meal.

An average of 900 meals were delivered weekly in the summer months increasing to 1,020 during the winter period. At the end of the year, the service was working to nearly maximum capacity and a survey was in the process of being carried out to ensure that priority could be accorded to the more urgent cases.

The following statistics cover the year ending 31st December, 1971:

Number of meals delivered during the year	47,825
" " " " since inception of service	279,046

## OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

## (a) Porthcawl Rest

This year 42 tickets were distributed through the 14 Old Age Pensioners Branches in the area on the understanding that all old people resident in the area were eligible for a ticket. In addition the Council acted as "agent" to enable other old people to purchase tickets for themselves, as the "Rest" does not supply tickets to individuals.

## (b) Welsh Old People's Week

This event was held between 4th and 13th October, 1971. A sum of £330 was distributed between the 14 O.A.P. Branches of the area to help them provide a function which all old people in their area could attend.

## (c) Alexandra Rose Day

This event was held again and a collection of £292.46 was realised. The expenditure incurred in promoting the event was £47.01 of which £45 was met by the Aberdare Urban District Council.

## ST. MARY'S SOCIAL CENTRE

The popularity of the Centre has continued undiminished throughout 1971. There are now 4,580 registered members of which 3,830 are full members, and 750 associate members.



The number of meals supplied increased from 36,000 in 1970 to over 41,000 in 1971, and it is expected that this trend will continue in the coming year. The Centre produced 89,457 meals over the last twelve months of which 47,825 were for the Meals on Wheels service and 41,632 for Centre members, an average of 1,720 meals per week.

Social and cultural activities continue to be extremely well attended and the Old Tyme Dancing tentatively commenced in 1970 has proved so popular that it is now well established as a weekly feature.

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 - SECTION 21 (1)(b)

#### Homeless Families - Intermediate Accommodation

The rapid deterioration of the situation at the Intermediate Accommodation buildings at Llanwonno Road, Mountain Ash, has been a matter of great concern. These buildings have been subjected to an extensive degree of vandalism, rendering the four units uninhabitable.

At a meeting in November 1971 the Joint Committee considered the present unsatisfactory situation and, in the apparent absence of any financial help from the County Council and the very considerable cost of reinstating the buildings, decided that serious consideration had to be given to the termination of the entire project. The participating Councils of Aberdare, Mountain Ash and Pontypridd were asked to consider their individual policies on the advisability of continuing with the Intermediate Accommodation scheme, and early next year representatives of each Council are to report to a meeting of the Joint Committee on their views as to the continuation of the project.

County Council provision for homeless families only caters for mothers and children. This 'Joint' project has provided a home for the whole family, thereby keeping the family intact. It has served a very useful purpose and has benefited a considerable number of families, most of whom, following their stay in this temporary accommodation, have been rehoused by their respective Councils. It seems likely, however, that this experiment, designed to give more comprehensive help to homeless families, is likely to fail and it is a great pity.

## HOUSING STATISTICS

Below are details of habitable dwelling houses in the area at 31st December, 1971:-

Pre-War private houses	9,734
Pre-War local authority houses (erected)	576
Pre-War local authority miscellaneous houses (owned)	30
	<hr/>
	10,340
Post-War private houses (1204) and police houses (30)	1,234
Post-War local authority houses (erected)	2,757
Post-War local authority miscellaneous houses (owned)	5
	<hr/>
	14,336
	<hr/>

During 1971, sixty-six houses were erected by private enterprise and forty-eight houses were demolished or closed as a result of individual demolition and closing orders and other causes.

Details of local authority houses are as follows:-

District	Pre (1939) War Dwellings	Post 1939 Dwellings	Total
TREWAUN	18	-	18
TRENANT	132	-	132
TREFELIN	140	-	140
TRENEOL	72	-	72
PENYWAUN	24	1,017	1,041
LLWYDCOED	106	94	200
ABERNANT	40	48	88
CWMBACH	44	667	711
TY FRY	-	120	120
HEOL-Y-MYNYDD	-	72	72
CWMDARE	-	357	357
ABERAMAN	-	40	40
HIRWAUN	-	342	342
MISCELLANEOUS	30	5	35
	606	2,762	3,368

## Types of Dwellings with Number of Bedrooms

Type of Dwelling	No. of Bedrooms	No. of Dwellings
B.I.S.F. STEEL DWELLINGS	3	96
TRADITIONAL HOUSES	4	55
TRADITIONAL HOUSES	3	1,928
TRADITIONAL HOUSES	2	218
FLATS	3	96
FLATS	2	548
FLATS	1	300
BUNGALOWS	1	30
MAISONETTES	4	18
BEDSITTERS	-	42
MISCELLANEOUS	-	35
TWO GENERATION HOUSES	4	2
TOTAL		3,368

As at 31st December, 1971, there was a total of 376 applicants on the Council's housing list.

Set out below is a table indicating the number of applicants from each ward and from areas outside the Aberdare Urban District:-

WARD	SUB-TENANTS	TENANTS	TOTAL
1	32	48	80
2	4	32	36
3	9	30	39
4	21	37	58
5	8	41	49
TOTAL	74	188	262
OUTSIDE AREA APPLICANTS			114
GRAND TOTAL			376



# CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL ON DEVELOPMENTS ACT 1960 AND CARAVAN SITES ACT 1968

The end of the year survey showed that two residential caravan sites were operating in the area one of which was full and the other had only three vacant standings.

The details were as follows:-

<u>SITE</u>	<u>MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CARAVANS PERMITTED</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CARAVANS ON SITE</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS</u>
Bryn Rhos Caravan Site, Trenant.	50	50	160
Pleasant View Caravan Site, Trecynon.	50	47	145

Mountain View Caravan Site, Trenant, which was first licenced in 1961 had become the property of the daughter of the original owner now deceased. This person felt she could not administer the site effectively and so surrendered the Site Licence in February of this year. Immediately prior to this, arrangements were made for the residents of this site to take their caravans onto other licensed sites and the operation was concluded without trouble.

It will be noticed by comparison with last year's table, that the number of residents has increased by approximately 35 despite the fact that the Council have rehoused a number of families, but the vacancies created by these displacements are quickly filled and not infrequently by persons from outside the area. From information obtained from the site owners it seems there is an ever increasing demand for caravan accommodation and since, as I have previously said, this form of habitation is sub-standard to say the least, it surely reflects the general shortage of housing.



There have been several complaints from the occupiers of dampness in caravans and the owners have been required to repair and renew defective parts. Such work often proves difficult, since caravan construction is intended only for a limited life. Another problem is that of condensation, particularly during the winter months, when the walls through lack of good insulation become very cold and the warm internal air readily forms moisture on the cold internal surfaces. Improved ventilation tends to lessen this hazard.

The sites have been fairly well conducted throughout the year and of the many inspections made particular care has been taken to ensure that adequate fire fighting facilities are available and in good order.

The two single caravans parked on isolated sites, each with a temporary Planning Consent and Site Licence, still remain and present no problems.

#### ACTION ON HOUSES UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION (HOUSING ACT 1957)

During 1971:-	Demolition Orders served	19
	Closing Orders served	30
	Closing Orders served substituted by Demolition Orders	6
	Undertakings accepted	-
	Schemes accepted	-

Occupants from 31 unfit properties have been rehoused by the local authority during the year.

## HOUSING REPAIRS

I have to report, similar to previous years, that housing repairs during the year have not been without their unsolved problems of getting landlords to undertake repairs. Continued efforts by the Public Health Inspectors to improve the conditions of the older properties have resulted in a substantial number of houses being attended to, although it has been necessary to resort to formal action in some cases.

The high cost of labour and materials continue to make the task of enforcing housing repairs, especially in the case of the lower rented properties, a most difficult one to deal with.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during 1971	
a) Total no. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts and Public Health Acts	538
b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	1310
c) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state of danger or injurious to health, as to be unfit for human habitation	51
d) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to above), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	487
2. Remedy of defects during 1971 without service of formal notices	421
3. Proceedings under Section 9, Housing Act 1957	
a) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
b) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	2
(i) By owner	1
(ii) By local authority in default of owner	1

4. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts	
a) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs:-	
Public Health Act 1936 - Section 58	2
Section 39	1
Section 36	-
Section 45	6
Section 93	35
Section 47	20
Section 56	-
Public Health Act 1961 - Section 24	<u>2</u>
	<u>66</u>
b) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	58
5. Proceedings under Sections 16 and 17, Housing Act 1957	49
6. Proceedings under Section 18, Housing Act 1957	-

### HOUSING ACT 1969 - PART III

#### Section 45 - Qualification Certificates

a) Applications: Received	-
Granted	-
Refused	-

#### Section 46 - Certificates of Provisional Approval

a) Applications: Received	-
Granted	-
Refused	-

#### Section 54

Number of County Court orders made empowering landlords to enter and carry out works	-
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## RENT ACT 1957

1. Applications for Certificates of Disrepair
  - a) No. of applications for certificates -
  - b) No. of decisions not to issue certificates -
  - c) No. of decisions to issue certificates -
    - (i) In respect of some but not all defects -
    - (ii) In respect of all defects -
  - d) No. of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of first schedule -
  - e) No. of undertakings refused by local authority under provision to paragraph 5 of first schedule -
  - f) No. of certificates issued -
  
2. Applications for Cancellation of Certificates
  - g) Applications by landlords to local authority for cancellation of certificate of disrepair -
  - h) Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates -
  - i) Decisions by local authority to cancel in spite of tenants objection -
  - j) Certificates cancelled by local authority -

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT 1958 AND  
HOUSE AND HOUSE PURCHASE ACT 1959

I have to report that during 1971, applications for improvement grants have been received from 507 applicants. The number of applications approved during the year was 175 and the amount involved £143,827.74.



## APPENDIX

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1971 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ABERDARE IN THE COUNTY OF GLAMORGAN.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

PREMISES (1)	NO. ON REGI- STER (2)	NUMBER OF		
		INSPEC- TIONS (3)	WRITTEN NOTICES (4)	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	8	20	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority.	87	33	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	2	7	-	-

## 2. Cases in which Defects were found

PARTICULARS	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE				CASES IN WHICH PROSECUTIONS WERE INSTITUTED
	FOUND (2)	REMEDIED (3)	REFERRED TO H.M. FACTORY INSPECTOR (4)	BY H.M. FACTORY INSPECTOR (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
a. Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
b. Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c. Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against act (not including offences relating to outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	-	-	-

## Part VIII of the Act

## Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

NATURE OF WORK  (1)	SECTION 133			SECTION 134		
	NO. OF OUT- WORKERS IN AUGUST LIST REQUIRED BY SECTION 133(1)(c) (2)	NO. OF CASES OF DE- FAULT IN SENDING LISTS TO THE COUNCIL (3)	NO. OF PROSEC- UTIONS FOR FAILURE TO SUPPLY LISTS (4)	NO. OF INSTAN- CES OF WORK IN UNWHOLE- SOME PREMISES (5)	NOTICES SERVED (6)	PROSEC- UTIONS (7)
Wearing Making etc. . . . . apparel and Cleaning Washing ..	5  -  -	-  -  -	-  -  -	-  -  -	-  -  -	-  -  -

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